An Arab traveling in a desert drear Mot with a well of water sweet and clear.

spring.

Beemed to his simple mind fit for a King.
He said: "Hi fill my bottle, and will haste
Me to the Callph that he, too, may taste."
His leathern bottle filled with eager hands.
He tradged away across the burning sands—
Long miles he trudged thro' sands of blistering

And laid his off ring at the Caliph's feet. The Caliph took the leathern bottle up. And poured a draught into his golden cup, Drank it, and thanked the Arab with a smile, His courtiers, sneering, standing by the while At length one seized the water bottle. "Stop! The Caliph sharply said, "Drink not one drop. The courtier quickly put the bottle down, and turned away with an impatient frown. Meanwhile the Arab's face it up with joy—His happiness was great—without alloy—Smiling he left the royal presence. Then The Caliph thus addressed his waiting The water in this bottle is unfit To drink, and yet I did partake of it, Because it is an offering of love— As such 'tis sweet as manna from above You with the bottle I dared not to trust You with the bottle I dared not to trust,
Fearing you'd show your loathing and disg
and for my Caliphate I'd not offend
So loving, true and generous a friend."
A simple gift from one who holds us dear
Should ne'er accepted be with frown or sn
Look in the giver's face—if love be meant
accept as precious the well-meant intent.
—Thomas Burke, in Yankee Blad

SHORT CHANGE MEN.

How the Unsuspicious Are Swin dled at the Circus.

Making Money By Changing Twenty-Doi lar Bills-Only One Man in a Thousand Will Count His Change Three Times.

Nearly everybody knows more less about all the attendant features of a circus—the side show, the horse tent, the cooking tent, the dressingroom, the red-lemonade man, and the peanut flend; but not many people, even among the foxy old-timers who have patronized circuses for forty years, know any thing about the "short-change man." His victims are many, but they prefer not to trumpet their fish-like quality from the housetops. They swallow their chagrin and sep silent, while they economize in a number of ways to get even on the money that the short-change man has

A number of years ago I ran acros one of the most accomplished short-change workers in this country and got well acquainted with him. He didn't suspect me of being a newspaper man, and in the three months that I knew him I didn't enlighten him. He grew very confidential and chatty, and gave away to me the innermost secrets of his craft. He was a little, slim fellow, of Irish extraction, and as bright and sharp as a new needle. He had a way of tilting his head back and looking at folks with half-closed eyes, while he smiled slightly, that clever enough to make a great hit in a dramatic creation. It was perfectly fetching, but the fine contempt he had for the "suckers" whom his kind bled. and the way he had of speaking of them, was much more so. It was winter time when I knew him and he was resting until the season opened up. I approached him a dozen times to get him to tell me all about the shortchange act before he became pliable. He would take a coin and palm it as cleverly as Mr. Herrmann and laugh and turn away. But one evening he it twice and has seen the other man opened his heart to me.

I had been talking about the "telegraph" method of making short change, and he spoke up and said, quite scornfully.

'That's no good! There's no money in that. You can get only fifty cents or one dollar out of that. There's lots of ways stronger than that!" I asked him what they were.

"Well," he said, taking a roll o small bills, mostly ones and twos, out of his pocket, "they're worked this way; you do it with the 'long green.' He smoothed the bills out straight

and caressed them affectionately. "Ah! when these new ones were first issued." he said, "the boys worked all the banks in the country for them. They were the best graft the boys ever struck. You see they look just a five or ten if you don't show the figure. Well, this is the way the boys take the money away from the 'suckers.' You've noticed a lot of hustlers in the crowd selling tickets and saving people the trouble of getting in the jam at the ticket wagon, haven't you? Well, you naturally think they are hired by the proprietor of the show, because they sell tickets at the regular price. But they are not. They pay one hundred cents on the dollar for every ticket they sell, and they depend on their ability to swindle the buyers out of a few dollars now and

then for their profit. "A young man with his best girl comes along-or an old man alone, or a solid business man with two or three of his family; it doesn't matter who it is, they're all victims-and he sees a great crush around the ticket wagon. There isn't much chance of getting a ticket there in less than ten minutes, and here at his elbow is a young man with "Choice reserved seats at regular prices! How many? are here to relieve the rush at the wagon! No extra charge, sir! How many?' and he says, 'Two please,' which, assuming that the man bays reserved seats, would be two dollars. He gives the young man a ten dollar bill, or may be twenty dollars-if there's any place on earth where a man will flash a big bill, and where he hadn't ought to, it's at a circus. We'll say he offers him a twenty dollar bill this time for the sake of the better illustration of the story. The young man takes it, puts it into his pocket, draws out a handful of bills, takes a ten, a two and five ones, and hands the lump to the buyer of seats. It is llar short, but the man has handled it so quickly and counted sighteen dollars out of it so easily that times the man takes it and goes. but the fakir is sore if he does not. If he is a cautious and knowing party who is 'dead onto' the tricks of 'these rirous sharps,' it suits the 'shortchange man' exactly, for then he will serefully count his change and say:

dollar short here. Only seventeen

"That's beautiful, and just as the fakir wants it. So he says: "Sure of that? Just count I

"So he counts again, while the fakir watches, and when he has turned over the last bill he says, with the air of a man who knows too much to be cheated by these flip circus folks:

" 'That's all-seventeen. "But the fakir is a little doubtful, so he says, as though wishing to make

"Just let me count it. please!" "Serene in the belief that he has cornered his man, the buyer hands it over, and the fakir takes the bills in his left hand, with the ten dollar bill underneath, straightens them out, and then bends the whole bunch back over his left thumb. Then he turns them

over, one by one, and they lie straight

the last one he says, cheerfully: "'You're right-my mistake and your treat,' or some such amiable chestnut, hands the bills back to the man, still at full length, goes down in his trousers pocket with his right hand and gets a silver dollar, which he shoves into the stranger's hand, laughs, says something about 'mistakes will happen,' slaps the man on the shoulder with a laugh, and is gone in the crowd, while the ticket buyer

jams his money into his pocket and

hurries into the tent where the ele-

pants are bellowing.
"But the fakir has got the ten-dollar bill, because when he doubled that over in counting the seventeen he flipped it clear over, and his agile little finger crushed it into a very small wad and held it there unnoticed, while the other fingers were free to use. And inasmuch as the 'sucker' has himself twice counted the bills, and has seen the fakir count them, he will swear that he has got all that belongs to him when he has compelled the fakir to go down into his pocket and fork out the silver dollar. He doubles up the bills without further examination and is gone.

"But the fine work doesn't end there. When the fakir laughingly claps his man on the back he puts a chalk mark on him which keeps all other fakirs away from him. He may try to buy red lemonade or peanuts or prize packages, or concert tickets, but he can't do it. The men he hails and beckons refuse to see him and pass him by. The reason is this: If they sell him something they might cause him to bring forth the roll of bills, in which case he would notice that the ten dollars was missing, and would be apt to raise a row. But if one of them should overlook the signal and be instrumental in apprising the man of his loss he is compelled by a rule among the fakirs to stand the loss and restore the ten dollars or whatever sum it may be. In case a man gives up a ten instead of a twenty the fakir only makes five, and if it's a five he probably only makes one. You see there must be enough bills left in the wad so that the absence of one won't be no-

"That's a good scheme," I remarked, "but suppose when the rob-bery is complete the purchaser of the ticket should take a notion to count his money again?" "There isn't one man in a thousand

who will do it. You see he has counted verify his count." "Yes, I know," I persisted, "but suppose he should count it; wouldn't

e fakir be in a pretty bad boat! "Not in the least," he replied. uch a crank should happen along, and they do occasionally, the instant he starts in to count the money the fakir drops the big bill from his left hand to the ground and catches the buyer by the arm with some exclamation as:

"Look out there! You're losing something. You'll get the worst of it you're not careful!'

"As he says this he either picks up he money and hands it to the man or oints it out to him, and moves away n the crowd. May be the man susects that the fellow tried to rob him out he has his money and can make no kick, and besides the fakir is gone Oh, there's no way of catching him. But, as I said, there isn't one man in a thousand who will count his money that one last time."-Chicago Mail.

Carving Zulu Babies.

When a Zulu child is first born it is of a light hue, and does not get the darker tint of the parents for some years. As soon as it enters the world the "medicine man" is sent for. Contrary to the custom of the civilized "medicine man" he takes no notice whatever of the mother, but devoting himself entirely to the child, makes a number of small gashes in various parts of the poor infant's body, into which he rubs medicine and goes on his way rejoicing, returning next day to make the incisions deeper and rub more medicine into them. This second operation being performed the child is washed and dried by being moved around in the smoke of a wood fire, eventually being daubed all over with a red paint, which is renewed as fast as it wears off for a period of several months. The child is not allowed any natural food until the visits of the medicine man" are ended (this for mality often causing serious conse-quences to the offspring), and a few lays afterward the mother will be seen about her work as usual with the little one strapped to her back.-Drake's Magazine.

-Miss Rightsort-"I do not like the way the clothes looked this week, Mrs. Mulvaney." Mrs. Mulvaney-"Sure, mum; phat wuz the matther wid 'em?" Miss Rightsort -They had too much blue in them." Mrs. Mulvaney-'Dade, mum, I was falin' blue all day mesilf, an' I dare say it must have had an effect on the clothes."-America.

-"You're too fresh," said the brine to the beef. "I acknowledge the corn," replied the beef, humbly.

a guild of clear-starchers and iro Here young man! You're one of fine linens and laces.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

A Visit to the Department of the Interior—How Its Affairs Are Conducted—The Secretary a Hard-Worked Official.

[Special Correspondence.]

The most massive, beautiful and perfect public building in Washington City is occupied by the Interior Department. For many years it was known as the Patent Office building and retains that name among the older inhabitants of the National capital until this day. The office of the Secretary is upon the second floor in the southeast corner until this day. The office of the Secretary is upon the second floor in the southeast corner of the building. It is a very commodious room, beautifully frescoed, and has a large ante-room adjoining it into which the Secretary can go with department officials and public men for private consultation upon matters of importance. Under former administrations the Secretary was approached by cards from the general public which were brought to him by the messenger who guarded his door. The late Secretary Vilus finding himself too often annoyed by the presentation of cards, closed the entrance from the hall and required the public to enter through a small ante-room which is occupied by the private secretary. Colonel Vilas selected for that position Mr. John T. Hume, of Wisconsin. Mr. Hume out-full length. When he reaches John T. Hume, of Wisconsin. Mr. Hume had formerly been committee clerk to the Committee on Agriculture in the House of Representatives and in that position be-came sequainted with nearly all of the public men of our day. His selection was a wise one and he has been thus far retained by Secretary Noble.

Mr. Hume is frequently able to dispose of at least one-third of the people who call to see the Secretary of the Interior. They

see the Secretary of the Interior. They throng his room and he goes from one to another inquiring their business, and sending them to the various bureaus of the department to which they should originally have gone. Men come to see the Secretary of the Interior about pensions when they should go to Assistant Secretary Bussey. They come about land matters when they should go to First Assistant Secretary Chandler. They seek to file papers looking to their appointment to office when they should go to the appointment clerk; thus one by one Mr. Hume, having ascertained the business of the callers, disposes of them and relieves the Secretary of a great deal of time and wear and tear of nerve force. Of course you understand that the Senators and Representatives of the people are admitted to the room of the Secretary of the Interior; in fact, to the room of any Cabi-

admitted to the room of the Secretary of the Interior; in fact, to the room of any Cabinet officer without sending in their cards and without any delay. Mr. Hume knows all of these gentlemen and politely opens the door for them when they call.

The Secretary of the Interior has an immense amount of work to do, for the department committed to his care is a great and growing one. The Land Office, the Pension Office, the Patent Office, the Indian Office and other minor bureaus are under his con-Office, the Patent Office, the Indian Office and other minor bureaus are under his conpol, and the heads of those bureaus with their chiefs of divisions are obliged to see the Secretary and present matters to him for his approval or disapproval, and for his signature or the withholding thereof, every day and almost every hour. Patents, pensions and public lands constantly produce the produce the service of t law and equity questions which can be decided only by the Secretary, who is the board of final appeal in all cases. The insumbert of that office must therefore be a



general public and never apparently grow weary of their troubles and trials the Secretary must be a polished gentlemen.

The present incumbent of the office, General John W. Noble, comes up to every require ment of the position and is equal to every occasion. He is a very handsome man and and smile is one of those contagious evi-dences not only of good humor but of com-radeship that puts his visitor at ease im-mediately. The heads of bureaus of the great department all speak of him in the great department all speak of him in the highest terms as a man eminently well qualified for his position, who grasps the ideas presented to him upon every case of every kind and reaches a speedy conclusion concerning both the law and facts before him. With the general public, especially with the representative men of the day, General Noble has became very popular.

I have seen his room so thronged with people that it was almost impossible for

people that it was almost impossible for him to turn around from one to another to grasp their hands and hear their story; yet he was enabled to send them all from the room one by one with the belief that each one had gained his especial favor; and prob-ably all of them were correct. Secretary Noble is always careful to make a note of promises made by him so that he is remind-ed of such promises and he never fails to seep them. A very peculiar case was pre-sented to him a few weeks ago, and as it illustrates the character and innate good-ness of the man it may as well be related here without violating any confidence.

A young man in the Interior Departmen

was recommended for discharge by the head of the bureau in which he was employed. Under ordinary circumstances the recommendation of a head of a bureau receives the approval of the Secretary. recommendation of a head of a bureau re-ceives the approval of the Secretary. But when this case came before General Noble the name seemed familiar to him, and before taking action upon it he made inquiry. After obtaining full information upon the subject concerning the young man, he wrote a letter to the head of the bureau in which

he said:
"While I recognize the fact that you have a right to urge favorable action upon your recommendation for the discharge of this young man, you will understand my hesi young man, you will understand my hesitancy when I say to you that many years ago when I went to Keokuk, Ia., as a young lawyer, one of the prominent men of that thriving Western city was especially my friend and did me many acts of kindness, which enabled me to make a successful start in life as a young lawyer. I can never forget his kindness, and could not enumerate the many good things that he did for me. The young man whom you have recommended for dismissal is a grandson of that good friend of my young man hood. With these vivid recollections of the goodness of that man toward me you can readily understand that the discharge of his grandson from this department would come with an ill grace from me. Therefore, recognizing the fact that you have a right to demand the dismissal of the young man, according to your recommendation, I have to request as a personal favor to myself that you will withdraw that recommendation and give the young man another chance.

chance ... The only trouble with the young man it The only trouble with the young man in question was that he had been drinking too much liquor. 'He has been fully informed of the reason for his retention in office, and as he is a young gentleman of naturally high character his reform is complete and it is believed permanent. This true story illustrates the kindly disposition of the present Secretary, and it is safe to presume that even those who are altogether strangers to him will be kindly and charitably dealt with in all such cases. Secretary Noble is a very hard working man indeed, and in this respect he is not unlike his predecessor, Colonel Vilas. The department hours are from nine o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon. Secretary Noble

nearly midnight.

In common with the other Cabinet officers the time of the Secretary of the Interior is so occupied by callers who throng his office during the day, except on Cabinet days, that it is almost impossible for him to transact the current business of the department during office hours. Therefore it seems to be necessary for him to return at night, when, all being quiet around him, he can examine cases and append his signature to the hundred or more of letters before him. He is a stout, robust man with iron-gray beard and almost totally gray before him. He is a stout, rooust man what iron-gray beard and almost totally gray hair. His locks are silken and rivaled in beauty alone by the suit of hair which crowns the head of Senator Ingalls, of Kansas. His face is strongly marked, but his skin is soft and pink and beautiful as that of a babe. That he is a strong man is of a babe. That he is a strong man is amply known to a caller by the hearty clasp of his hand. He has beautiful, large, expressive eyes, and his voice is as oft and winsome as ever came from the lips of man. This may seem like fulsome nattery of the Secretary, but it is marely the re-echang, not of my own views, but of the opinions expressed by all who have had the pleasure of coming is contact with this remarkable gentleman.

SMITE D. FRY DHULEEP SINGH'S KOHINOOR.

The Famous Diamond Now Sparkles on Queen Victoria's Breast.

The famous Kohinoor diamond, or "Mountain of Light," which, according to a recent dispatch, Queen Victoria has been asked to restore to its rightful owner, Prince Dhuleer Frince Daules;
Fingh, is one of the
great jewels of the
world. During hundreds of years it has
been looked upon
with superstitious
with superstitious

reverence by the Hindoos, who believe that its possession carries with it the right to govern India. On the other hand it has been regarded as an omen of to govern India. On the other hand it has been regarded as an omen of ruin and disaster, and its history shows that every sovereign owning it up to Victoria lost either his life or his empire. It belonged to the Mogul dynasty of rulers but there is a tradition that before it shone in the Paracal Action of the Mogul dynasty of rulers. in the Peacock throne it was owned, count less ages before, by the mythological Pan

doos.
At all events, sovereign has been steal ing it from sovereign for nearly a thousant years. The court circles of London would of course, be shocked at the application o

this term to the meth-od by which ner Maj-esty acquired the gem, but it is the plain language of Prince Dhu-leep Singh to the Empress of India. "It will be useless for me," he writes, "to demand the restoration of my Kingdom, swindled from me by you: Christian Government, but which I hope shortly, by the aid of Providence, to retake from my robbers. But my diamond, the Kohinoor, I understand, is entirely at your disposal. Therefore, believing your Majesty to be the most religious body that your sub to be the most religious body that your sub-jects pray for every Sunday, I do not hesi-tate to ask that the gem be restored to me or else that a fair price be paid for it to me out of your privy purse." Queen Victoria has not yet replied to this polite request for restitution, but even should Dhuleep be successful in getting his kingdom back the control of the probability that he will thers is not much probability that he will ever see his diamond again unless he re-ceives an invitation to Windsor Castle.

The magnificent gem is, it is needless to say, part of the spoils of India. It was brought to England about 1850 in the Medea sloop of war.



jects. It was badly cut, and the general opinion was that it was not so much of a was the better stone of the two. The Queer | else pitos (whistles), from the shape suitation, the recutting was determined on When Queen Victoria resolved to bring out all the latent beauties of the diamond by recutting there was no one in England who was believed competent to the task, and the great Costar was brought over from Amsterdam. All England became interest ed in the operation. Costar and his assistants were installed in the shops of the Queen's jeweler, and an engine was special

ly crected to do the cutting. When the day came to begin operations no less a person age than the Duke of Wellington was chosen to set the machinery in motion. The weight was reduced to 106 carats, but instead of its former irregular shap-t-neither roze not brilliant—Costar left it a perfect brilliant with duly proportioned table, facets and The authentic history of the Kohinoor be gins about the year 1550, when it was in the possession of the King of Golconda, Kootul Shah, who acknowledged the Mogul

Emperor, Shah Jem-

aum, as his master.

Meer Jumla, the Prime Minister, stole it from the King and presented it to the Emperor, who re warded him with the giftof the throne of the sovereign he had be- BACK VIEW, RECUT. trayed. That transaction carried the jewel t Delhi, where it remained until 1739. Abou ing given the Mogul dynasty a fatal blow carried the Kohinoor with him to Khorassa. as one of the spoils of conquest. The Persian ruler did not keep it long, for the excellent reason that his subjects assassin ated him one morning. There was in ni service a body of Afghans, commanded by Ahmed Shah. Unable to save his master Ahmed cut his way through the Persia, army and reached Cabul, where he suc ceeded in consolidating the Dooranne Empire. He brought the Kohinoor with

im from Persia Pigs All In. Agent-I want to show you s ew in safes, sir.

Bank President—Just got one.

Agent But this is the new "pigs-in-the en combination," with double time-locks. Bank President—How does it wark? Bank President—How does it wark?
Agent—Why, you see, sir, you wek the
cash up in this compartment, the book
keeper in the next, the teller in the next
and the president in the last. Each compartment furnished with folding-bed and
all the modern conveniences, sir.

Bank President—But what the dickens do

Bank President—But what the dickens of I want to lock the president up for?

Agent—So you can keep watch of the others; and to relieve your mind of all undue responsibility here's a slot for you to drop this extra key out to the nigal watchman, who will return it to you at the proper hour mext morning.

Director (entering)—Order one at once—Judge.

Plain English Mr. Bostonbred—Pray tell me, Miss Mon ana, who is that lady dressed in green tanding by the mantel—the one whose emstanding by the mantel—the one whose embonpoint is rawther pronounced!

Miss Montans—I don't know what you mean by your "ong-bong-pong," but if you mean that hig squawb of a woman, her name is Mrs. Cap. Hodson, and that ramred of a man by her side is Cap. himself Regular streak-o-fat and streak-o-mas couple, ain't they!—Time. SIGHTS IN MEXICO.

The trees are covered with orchids odor, infinite in variety. In the course of one afternoon I gathered more than one dozen species, besides a whole flower-press full of ferns and blossoms, as an incidental in the collection of

butterflies and land-shelis.

Of the latter there are over one hu dred varieties in the neighborhood of Xalapa, from the tiny strebeling, newly-discovered by my hostess, who is a full-blooded Totonac Indian, to the great hermaphrodite glandina sowerbyana, whose shell reaches a length of eleven centimeters, or five inches, while the extended snail not infrequently measures eight and one-half or nine inches. And the butterflies! oh. the butterflies! I remember once caviling at Edwin Arnold's smile in "The Light of Asia" wherein he speaks of butterflies as "jeweled objects." The term seemed inappropriate to the vel-vety texture of the butterfly; but I bow to accurey, having seen the butterflies of Xalapa. White, black, red, purple, brown, golden they shine, and many of them glitter with the brilliancy of gems. One particularly beautiful variety is familiarly known as "the figure 8," from the mark on the under side of its wings. The spread of wing of some of these gorgeous creatures is often eight or ten inches, and the night moths have wings larger than those of ample of the Hebrew societies and endoves in many species.

Armadillos are, if not abundant, not rare hereabouts and they find ready purchasers at from thirty to fifty cents. The flesh is very delicate and savory. The favorite mode of cooking is by a sort of barbecue in its own shell. This shell is a sightly object, with its graduated bosses and corrugations, and it has been utilized by deft needle-women for the ground work of many pretty bags and boxes. The peons employed in field labor use these shells to hold the seed for sowing. To meet these purposes the lateral edges are bent together while green and laced fast by cords or hide-thongs. Although it would appear to be a cleaner animal than the armadillo the opossum, it seems, is disdained as a food element by the Mexicans, although it is so plentiful hereabouts that it is largey trapped for its depradations in the poultry yard. Strange that the discrimination should exist, for the amadillo is somewhat omnivorous and it is asserted that it has been known to make ghoulish raids on graveyard's while the favorite of the Southern darkies is a nore fastidious creature.

There exists hereabouts a belief that the tail of the opossum, dried and pulverized and drunk in wine, is a sovereign remedy for chills and fever. Another animal considered a tidbit by the people of the lowlands makes a decidedly repulsive impression upon unaccustomed strangers. This is an iguana, or lizard, which the natives eatch and confine in the thatchedroofed peaks of their houses. Some people declare that in order to fatten properly the mouth of the iguana must be closed by a few stitches to prevent it from eating. The truth probably is that the wider the poor creature's mouth is left open the sooner it completes the process of fattening, as it doubtless lives on the various larvae and beetles bred in the straw or palm of the thatching. Another of the resources of the commissary department is a of the flowers, which are of a deep scarlet, some three inches in length, growing in clusters. These conical neads are cooked either as greens or in the shape of force-meat balls, and they have, it is said, all the flavor of good meat. I have not tasted them.

It is well that there are to be had such toothsome varieties in the food line, for the Xalapa market is dear and poor, and on Fridays in Lent the question of butcher's meat is a vexed one. Xalapa is closely akin to some places in California in the matter of the lively flea, his tenure of office and antics. There are also mosquitoes in abundance and a vicious little gnat called rodador or "rounder." whose sting burns like fire and leaves a tiny speck of scarlet in the flesh of its victim. Happily this pest is not common. There are scorpions and other venom ous insects, but their sting is only painful, not fatal. There is also a rattlesnake which is not venomous, and a horned serpent, and another snake which the wiseneres were fain to find a realization of the fabled amphisboens, which was said to have a head at each end and to run with equal facility in either direction. The present variety has been shown, however, to have the customary head and tail end. the two being markedly alike in appearance. - Xalapa Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

A MEDICAL TRUST. It Has Been Formed to Aid Members Time of Iliness.

A curious novelty in business enter-

prise is being conspicuously advertised about town. It is an "association" to

furnish medical attendance and drugs to its members at "bed-rock" prices, and even below. For forty cents per month the association guarantees competent medical attendance. And this medical "combine" professes to have arrangements made at good, reliable drug-stores in all parts of town by which prescriptions will be filled at a uniform cost of twenty cents each, no matter what ingredients they may contain, for the association's members. Well, it is by no means improbable that at that price prescriptions, taking them as they run, would still pay a large profit to the pharmacists, whose ordinary percentage of profit is from three hundred to eight hundred per cent. There are some few rare chemicals and costly drugs that could not be made up in appreciable quantities at any such figure, but they are very lit-tle required, and doubtless it is understood that the association's physicians shall not call for them; or, if they do, that they shall strike a good general average by turning in a lot of prescriptions that will not cost over a cent each to fill. Latin is a fine cloak | week.

for such little games. But all this is, of course, mere speculation, scheme of the concern may be enough and its practice may have no perceptible effect in increasing the bills or mortality. Surely some device is wanted to fill in between the charity of the dispensaries and the robbery of fashionable medical practice, by which people of moderate means ca have and pay for medical attendance

when they are sick.
Some Hebrew societies have a rather ingenious system for getting their doctors' bills down to a minimum. They contract with a physician by the year to attend all cases of illness among members of their families for a certain stipulated sum, which is paid whether any body needs a doctor during the year or not. Of course, in sickly season the physician might feel that they are rather getting the best of him, but, after all, he would only be called upon to skip around a little more lively and be more anxious to effect cures than if he were charging by the visit. Indeed, this thing of charging by the

visit for medical attendance is the weak point in the relations between the doctor and his patients. It is to his interest to keep them sick as long as possible. So clearly is this recognized by many of our practical, long-headed business men-who have money enough to enable them to do as they please-that they now follow the exgage the services of their physicians by the year, paying whether they and theirs are sick or well. Accouchments are as a rule excepted from such contracts, as they are too good plums for family doctors let go into a general account. The annual terms of such contracts run all the way from \$250 to \$2,500. It is an excelent arrangement for the doctor, who, with a few such good contracts on his hands can be easy about his income, and it is good for the patients, as it is clearly to the interest of the physician to keep them as well as possible to save himself trouble.

The next better thing is the Chinese system of hiring the doctor by the year and stopping his salary whenever his patient is sick. It will be a sad day for druggists and undertakers if that plan ever gets a foothold in this country.-N. Y. Mail and Express.

MRS. LOGAN ABROAD. Her Views of Gladstone, the Queen an

"You saw Gladstone?" "Yes, and Bismarck. I saw them both several times. I was interested in comparing them. In one way they strike one as having the same general character. Both forcibly suggest strength, firmness and intellect. But in other respects how vastly different they are. Bismarck appears to one as cold, hard, immovable. Gladstone has an expression of gentleness and sym-pathy. He is soft spoken, and suggests kindness and affability. His eyes are as bright as a boy's.

"I had an excelent opportunity of forming an opinion of Mr. Gladstone. continued Mrs. Logan, "for I had the pleasure of meeting him socially on two different occasions. One was at Sir Edward Reed's house when the Cardiff people presented their memorial to Mr. Gladstone. Miss Florence Pullman and I were the only Americans honored with invitations to that most charming affair. Sir Edward Reed's presentation speech was exgem after all. A great many people of the commissary department is a threat spread and thought that the glass model in the tower shrub which is called bequinite, or tremely good, and, in reply, Mr. Gladstone made a really grand address. was to me when he read a paper in which he said he found the most touching tribute he had yet received was the resolution drawn up in my own State of Illinois and signed by the Governor of Illinois, in praise of Mr. Gladstone's course. I really could not contain myself. I clapped my hands and exclaimed: 'My own State!'

"Later on Miss Pullman and I were invited to the dinner Mr. Carnegie gave to Mr. Gladstone, and I had the seat upon Mr. Gladstone's left. He is most charming conversationalist. And so earnest! He told me that he had only one desire in life, and that was to see his ideas in actual operation It was his great wish, and he spoke frequently of it. You would be surwith American affairs. He knows American politics through and through. He astonished me with his familiarity with them. And in other matters the same. He is familiar with the social problem presented by America. He asked the closest questions about American life, thought and feeling. He was intensely interested in the phases of the labor problem as shown in our country, and the Clau-na-Gael affair afforded subjects for much interesting talk. The great problem of self-government, as exhibited under American laws and conditions, is evidently a subject of the closest study

with him.
"I was presented to the Queen also and to others of the royal house. I met the Queen at the reception to the Shah of Persia. This was a magnificent affair, naturally. The Queen is much maligned in picture and print. She is not at all the coarse creature she is painted. She is of course, stout, but there is nothing unrefined or coarse about her. On the other hand, she is a quiet, retiring lady, who dresses tastefully in the black she has worn since her husband died. She wore her customary black widow's cap. Her manner is extremely courteous and dignified, and I was much pleased with her. But I was more pleased with the Princess of Wales. She is a most lovely and lovable woman." "Is the Prince of Wales so fascing

ing as he is painted?" was asked. 'The Prince of Wales," said Mrs Logan, smiling, "is not fascinating and there is nothing in the least remarkable about him. He is an ordinary man, but his wife is

more than charming. I liked her

much better."-From an Interview in N. Y. Sun. —The berry patches of Florida seem to be picnic fields for the bears. Three were killed while helping themselves to the fruit in Madison County in one

HOTEL PIAZZA TALK

It Is Not Very Instructive, But It Helps to Pass Away the Time.

"Good morning. "Oh, good morning! Lovely morn-

ng. isn't it?" Beautiful!" "You going to drive to-day?" "You going to bathe this morning?"
"Oh, we had a lovely bath yester-

"Wasn't it cold?" "Not a bit-but lovely!"

"I think it's awfully cold bathing "You do?"

"Oh, awfully!" "I don't!" "Is your book nice, dear?" "Not very."

.. No " "Do you know I never care to read much at the seashore? "No? I never try to read any thing solid here. But one has to do some-

thing." "Yes, I know-that's quite true."

"What are you making, Mrs. Shoddie, an afghan?" "Yes."

"Isn't it lovely?"

"No?"

"Do you like it?"

"It's beautiful. Would you mind showing me the stitch?" "Certainly. I'll show you at any

time. "Oh, thanks! I must learn it!" "What have you there?"

"Oh, just a little pocket pin-cushion for my husband." "How cunning it is!"

"It is rather pretty." It's lovely. What a sweet, pretty shade of blue that is!"

"Yes; what lovely shades you can get now. "Oh, beautiful! I'll get my needle and see if I can learn that stitch, if

vou'll be so kind as to teach me." "Certainly."
"Thanks. I've promised to make something for a fair our Helping Hand Society is to have and I'm learn-

ing all the new stitches I can." "Did you notice those new people in the dining-room this morning? "Notice them? How could I help

noticing them!" "Wonder who they are." "I'm sure I don't know."

"I've asked several and no one seems to know. That's one disadvantage of a big hotel like this. One has to come into contact with any body and every body."

"I know; and some one is sure to introduce you sooner or later and then one has to be civil."

"Tiresome, isn't it?" "Awfully."

"But those new people-mercy!" "One of the women had on diamonds at the breakfast table."

"Horrible!" "There they go now for a walk." "Good heavens! such dresses for the street!"

"Awful!"-Time.

DIAMOND MANUFACTURE. How Diamond Dust Is Produced By Arth

We give herewith an abstract of an interesting communication which C. A. Parsons recently made to the Royal Society relative to a number of experiments which he has made on carbon at high temperatures and under great pressures and in contact with other substances. It would appear that he has succeeded in producing diamonddust artificially. The arrangement of the experiment was as follows: I massive cylindrical steel mold of about three inches diameter and six inches high was placed under a hydraulic press, the bottom of the mold being closed by a spigot and asbestos rubber packing, similar to the gascheck in guns, the top closed by a plunger similarly packed. In spigot was a vertically-bored hole into which the bottom end of the carbon rod to be treated fitted; the top end of the carbon rod was connecte electrically to the mold by a copper cap. The block and spigot were perfectly insulated electrically from the mold by asbestos, and the leading wires from the dynamo being connected to the block and mold respectively, the current passed along the carbon-rod in prised to find how conversant he is the interior of the mold. The free space in the mold was filled in turn with different hydrocarbons and with other materials. Among the liquids acted onwere benzine, paraffine, treacle, chloride and bisulphide of carbon, and the solids included silica, alumina. carbonate and oxide of magnesia and alumina. The pressure employed ranged from five to thirty tons per square inch. An interesting set of experiments was when the mold round the rod was filled with a layer of slacked lime about a quarter of an inch thick, surmounted by two inches of silver sand, followed by a layer of lime of the same thickness, and finally by a layer of coke dust. The pressures used ranged from five to thirty tons and current from 200 to 300 amperes, the carbon being in different experiments from one-quarter inch to fivesixteenths of an inch in diameter. Under these conditions there was obtained on the surface of the carbon rod a powder of a gray color, harder than emery, and capable of scratching the diamond. The powder thus manufactured is, therefore, very probably the diamond itself.—London Engineer-

An "Off Year" in Banking.

Friend-You say this has been an "off year" with your bank?
Stockholder—Yes. First the cashier was "off," and then the head bookkeeper, followed by the president.-Chicago Globe.

-"Where are you two going?" asked a girl of a youth and maiden who were wandering away from the main group at the picnic. 'Oh, we're going to get some pond lilies." In a quarter of an hour they were return-

ing. "What's the matter?" asked the girl who first spoke; "couldn't you find any pond lilies?" "No;" replied the other young lady, unguardedly. "somebody else had the hammock."—